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District is the nearest place in his jurisdiction from the headquarters, viz., Madras. The distance by rail to Cuddapah District border from Madras is 104 miles."

SRI G. SIVASANKARA REDDI :—" Sir, is it not necessary to locate the headquarters at a suitable and centrally situated place within his jurisdiction in order to save the unnecessary expenditure towards his travelling allowance for journeys between Madras and the nearest place of his jurisdiction, whenever he travels?"

THE HON. SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER :—" The matter has been previously considered twice and the Board of Revenue were asked to report; on these two occasions they reported that owing to want of accommodation in the districts, Madras was considered to be the most suitable place for the time being."

Working of the Shops and Establishments Act.

* 234 *Q.*—SRI P. KUNHIRAMA KIDAV : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have got complaints from various Labour Unions that the working of the Shops and Establishments Act is not satisfactory and that the workers are not benefited by the same; and

(*b*) whether the Government have any proposal to amend the Act so as to enable the workers to get better treatment and benefit from their employers?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" (*a*) Yes Sir;

" (*b*) Proposals to amend the Act are under the consideration of Government."

Medical van for the Malabar District Board.

* 235 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state whether the Government have received any request from Malabar District Board for permission to spend Rs. 1,000 a month on a skippo van for medical aid in rural areas and if so, what decision has been taken?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Yes; the proposal was not approved as the District Board is working at a deficit."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, in a speech on the 11th, the Hon. Minister for Public Works observed thus : ' So it was now considered that the best way to administer and carry medical relief to rural areas was to have mobile dispensaries. The question of starting mobile dispensaries in every district was under the consideration of the Government '. Now, what the Malabar District Board has done is naturally in furtherance of the declared policy of this Government. May I request the Government to reconsider the matter and give directions?"

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THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" As I said, Malabar District Board is running with a big deficit—a deficit of Rupees 1·22 lakhs in its general account and a deficit of Rs. 16 lakhs in its elementary fund account. But the matter is being re-examined with a view to see whether economy can be effected in some other directions and the savings utilized for this purpose."

SRI P. B. K. RAJACHIDAMBARAM :—" Sir, when the District Boards can spend thousands without the Government's sanction on opening as many dispensaries as they like, why should the Government stand in the way of medical aid through a mobile van and thereby save further expenditure on medical relief, especially at a time when qualified medical men are not available for giving medical relief in the rural parts? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" All schemes of new expenditure which a District Board is entering upon are, I think, subject to control and examination."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" What do the Government mean, Sir, by 'skippo van'? Has it anything to do with skipping? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" It may be some name, the name of the maker or the manufacturer."

DR. T. S. SOUNDARAM RAMACHANDRAN :—" Considering the difficult financial condition of the Government and that district boards, as one hon. Member suggested, are allowed to spend lots of money on starting dispensaries and maintaining them, is it not good to encourage private institutions to carry on the work at less expense to the Government? Will they declare the policy of subsidizing or helping private agencies and district boards to extend their medical relief and maternity relief? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Each question will be considered on its merits and also with reference to the availability of funds."

SRI A. APPU :—" Since the financial position of the district board is very bad, will the Hon. Minister consider the question of transferring the van to the Headquarters Hospital at Calicut and utilize it for medical aid in Chevaur firka where there are no dispensaries or hospitals or any kind of medical aid at all? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" That question does not arise out of the answer to the main question? "

Jurisdiction of the District Welfare Officers.

* 236 *Q.*—SRI M. RAJESWARA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state whether District Welfare Officers are empowered to take up well works and other acquisition proceedings in the Development firkas also?

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" The jurisdiction of the District Welfare Officers extends to the entire district